In the Claims

1. (Currently amended)   A method of enabling an application, running on an operating system with a first directory hierarchy, to access files stored on a removable storage medium that uses a second directory hierarchy that is incompatible with the first, in which the following steps occur:

(a)   the application sends a file request with a path that conforms to the first directory hierarchy; and

(b)   a file system starts a search for the file from a location within the second directory hierarchy that is different from the start location defined by the file request, by starting a path lookup at a non-root directory on the second directory hierarchy rather than modifying a string representing the original path.

2. (Currently amended)   The method of Claim 1 in which a prefix is attached to the original file request path, and the file system interprets this prefix so as to change where the search begins on the second directory hierarchy.

3. (Original)   The method of Claim 1 in which the file system filters out parts of the second directory hierarchy during the search so as to present a view of the second directory hierarchy that conforms to the layout of the first directory hierarchy, or to hide parts of the second hierarchy to which access should be denied.

4. (Original)   The method of Claim 1 in which the storage medium is a storage

medium that is removable from the device and conforms to the Memory Stick standard.

5. (Currently amended)   The method of Claim 1 in which the ~~step of identifying~~

~~the~~ location of the start of the search ~~occurs~~ is identified automatically without the application

having to be aware of this step or of the existence of the second directory hierarchy.

6. (Original)   The method of Claim 1 in which the location of the start of the search

is not the root of the second directory hierarchy.

7. (Currently amended)   The method of Claim 1 in which ~~the step of identifying~~

the location of the start of the search is ~~performed~~ identified by recognizing and skipping a

predefined prefix of a file request path to ensure conformance to the second directory

hierarchy.

8. (Original)   The method of Claim 7 in which recognizing and skipping the

predefined prefix is only done once per path on the first occurrence of the predefined prefix.

9. (Original)   The method of Claim 1 in which the ~~step of identifying the~~ location of

the start of the search is ~~performed~~ identified by mapping a non-existing directory that

conforms to the directory hierarchy used by the operating system to a directory that conforms

to the second directory hierarchy.

10. (Original) The method of Claim 9 in which the mapping allows file interchange to occur.

11. (Original) The method of Claim 10 in which the directory that conforms to the second directory hierarchy is a root directory.

12. (Currently amended)   A portable computing device programmed to enable an application running on it to access files stored on a storage medium, in which:

_____ the application sends a file request with a path that conforms to a first directory hierarchy used by the device operating system[[,]] :

_____ the device being is further programmed to search for the path in the file request starting from a location within a second directory hierarchy used by the storage medium[[,]] that is different from the start location defined by the file request by starting a path lookup at a non-root directory on the second directory hierarchy rather than modifying a string representing the original path;

_____ and the second directory hierarchy being is incompatible with the first.